

Sent to all registered Organs of Stage, Stakeholders, Landowners and I&APs on project database

03 July 2019

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION:
 PROPOSED CASTLE WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
 (DEA Ref.No.: 14/12/16/3/3//2/278)**

**NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 PROCESS**

Castle Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd received an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction of the Castle Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref.No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/278 on 08 May 2015. Subsequent to the EA dated 08 May 2015, an Amendment to the EA for the extension of the validity period of the EA was received on 15 March 2018 (DEA Ref.No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/278/AM3).

The project is intended to be bid into future rounds of the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. There have been advancements to wind turbine technology since the issuing of the EA, and the turbines authorised in the EA are therefore not considered to be the most suitable in terms of production and economic considerations.

There have been advancements to wind turbine technology since the issuing of the EA, and the turbines authorised in the EA are therefore not considered to be the most suitable in terms of production and economic considerations. In this regard, Castle Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd are considering an updated turbine model for the project. An amendment to the authorised turbine specifications are being submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the increase of the authorized turbine specifications as follows:

Component	Approved	Proposed amendment
Rotor diameter	up to 150m	between 110 to 200m
Hub height	up to 130 m	between 90 to 150m
Generating capacity per turbine	up to 4.5 MW	up to 7.9MW

The overall generation capacity of the WEF will remain 118MW and the number of turbines will not increase from 31 turbines.

Project Location: The project site is located in the Emthanjeni and Renosterberg Local Municipality, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province on the following properties:

- » Portion 12 of Farm 165 (Vendussie Kuil);
- » Portion 13 of Farm 165 (Vendussie Kuil); and
- » The Remaining Extent of Portion 0 of Farm 8 (Knapdaar).

In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisation dated 8 May 2015 and Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, it is possible for an applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved.

In order to verify the potential for a change in the impacts on avifauna, bats, visual exposure and noise, specialist input into the amendment motivation report has been included.

Savannah Environmental has prepared a Motivation Report in support of this Amendment Application on behalf of Caste Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd. The Motivation Report is available for public review and comment from **Wednesday, 3 July 2019** to **Friday, 2 August 2019** and can be downloaded from Savannah Environmental's website (<https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/>). The due date for written comment is **Friday, 2 Aug 2019**.

All comments received will be included in the final Motivation Report which will be submitted to the DEA for review and decision-making.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process. We also welcome you to share this information with any others that you feel will have a stake in the project and should be part of this process (such as occupiers of directly affected or surrounding properties, interest groups, community groups etc.).

Kind regards,



Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social Consultant

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Castle WEF: Notification of Application for the Amendment to the EA and the Availability of Motivation Report for review and comment

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Subject:	Castle WEF: Notification of Application for the Amendment to the EA and the Availability of Motivation Report for review and comment		
Body:	<p>APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED CASTLE WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE</p>		

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The attached letter provides information regarding the application and informing you of the availability of the Motivation Report for your review and comment which is available from **Wednesday, 03 July 2019 to Friday, 02 August 2019.**

Kind Regards

Nicolene Venter

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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

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